

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 29-50, 58, and 75-78, and add claims 83-143. The following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application as amended:

1-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium with an executable program stored thereon, wherein the program instructs a client computer to perform steps enabling licensing of digital content, comprising:

storing at least a portion of the digital content in an unusable form on the client computer;

communicating with a licensing broker to obtain a licensing certificate to at least the portion of the digital content; and

in response to the obtained licensing certificate, generating a useable form of at least the portion of the digital content from the stored unusable form.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 65, wherein the steps further comprise:

receiving the digital content on the client computer.

67. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 65, wherein the steps further comprise:

presenting a selection interface on the client computer which provides a description of the digital content to enable acquisition of the digital content, that is then stored on the client computer, from a ~~digital content~~ digital content vendor.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 67, wherein the steps further comprise:

generating a digital-content-accessing component on the client computer from the digital content, and wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file configured to:

access and receive additional digital content from a remote computer system.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 68, wherein the steps further comprise:

generating a message digest from the generated digital-content-accessing component; and

comparing the generated message digest with a stored message digest to enable verification of the digital content.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 65, wherein the licensing broker is a remote licensing broker.

71. (Previously Presented) A method for acquiring digital content by a client computer, comprising:

storing at least a portion of the digital content in an unusable form on the client computer;

communicating with a licensing broker to retrieve a license to at least the stored portion of the digital content; and

in response to the retrieved license, generating a useable form of at least the portion the digital content on the client computer from the stored unusable form of the received digital content.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 71, further comprising:
presenting a selection interface on the client computer to provide a description of the digital content and to enable acquisition of the digital content from a ~~digital-content~~ digital content vendor.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising:
generating a digital-content-accessing component on the client computer from the digital content, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file configured to access and receive additional digital content from a remote computer system.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising:
generating a message digest from the generated digital-content-accessing component; and
comparing the generated message digest with a stored message digest to enable verification of the digital content.

75-82. (Cancelled)

83. (New) The method of claim 71, further comprising:
receiving the digital content on the client computer, wherein the communicating with the licensing broker is coordinated from a license component that is incorporated within the received digital content.

84. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 66, wherein the communicating with the licensing broker is coordinated from a license component that is incorporated within the received digital content.

85. (New) A method for acquiring digital content, comprising:
downloading, by a digital-content-accessing component executing on a computing device, one or more components of the digital content;
authenticating, by the digital-content-accessing component executing on the computing device, the one or more components of the digital content;
storing, by the digital-content-accessing component executing on the computing device, the one or more components in an unusable form in a memory; and
communicating, by a license component executing on the computing device, with a remote licensing broker to request a license certificate to the digital content, wherein the license component is incorporated within a component of the digital content.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, further comprising:
executing, by the digital-content-accessing component executing on the computing device, a selection interface obtained from a digital content supplier, including:
invoking the selection interface;
providing the digital content supplier computer system with a description of the digital content; and
receiving the digital content from a remote digital-content vendor.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the selection interface includes at least one of:
an executable file configured to display a graphical user interface;
data received by the computing device that enables display of the graphical user interface;
a web page displayed on the computing device by a browser application;
and

a text file stored on the computing device that includes links or references to the digital content that enable access of the digital content by at least one or more of: an Internet browser, email, mail, telephone, fax, and a file transfer protocol application.

88. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file configured to download the components of the digital content from remote computer systems.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, further comprising:
receiving, at the computing device, the digital-content-accessing component from a remote computer.

90. (New) The method of claim 88, further comprising:
generating, by the computing device, the digital-content-accessing component from a component list.

91. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein authenticating the one or more downloaded components includes:
generating a message digest from the digital content; and
comparing the generated message digest with a stored message digest.

92. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein at least one component of the digital content is encrypted.

93. (New) The method of claim 85, further comprising:
requesting, by the license component executing on the computing device, an electronic license certificate from the remote licensing broker.

94. (New) The method of claim 93, further comprising:
receiving, by the license component executing on the computing device,
the electronic license certificate from the remote licensing broker; and
decrypting, by the license component executing on the computing device,
encrypted digital content.

95. (New) The method of claim 85, further comprising:
executing, by the license component executing on the computing device, a
purchase transaction including a purchase of a license for the digital content.

96. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the digital content includes one or
more of:

- an encrypted executable file;
- an encrypted data file;
- a user interface library;
- a purchasing request library;
- a security information file; and
- an electronic license certificate.

97. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the digital content includes one or
more of:

- digitally encoded executable code;
- digitally encoded source code;
- a digitally encoded video program;
- a digitally encoded audio program;
- digitally encoded music;
- a digitally encoded game;
- a digitally encoded multi-media program;
- a digitally encoded movie; and

a digitally encoded text document.

98. (New) The method of claim 85, further comprising:
receiving, by the license component executing on the computing device,
the license certificate; and
generating, by the license component executing on the computing device,
a useable form of the digital content from the one or more components of the digital
content according to the license certificate.

99. (New) An article of manufacture including a computer readable storage
medium having instructions thereon that are executable by a computing device to cause
the computing device to perform operations, the operations comprising:
downloading, by a digital-content-accessing component, one or more
components of the digital content;
authenticating, by the digital-content-accessing component, the one or more
components of the digital content;
storing, by the digital-content-accessing component, the one or more
components of the digital content in an unusable form in a memory; and
transmitting, by a license component, to a remote licensing broker computer
system a request for license certificate to the digital content, wherein the license
component is incorporated within a component of the digital content.

100. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein the operations
further comprise:
executing, by the digital-content-accessing component, a selection interface
obtained from a digital content supplier computer system, including:
invoking the selection interface;
providing the digital content supplier computer system with a description
of the digital content; and

receiving the digital content from a remote digital-content vendor computer system.

101. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 100, wherein the selection interface includes at least one of:

- an executable file configured to display a graphical user interface;
- data that enables display of the graphical user interface;
- a web page displayed by a browser application; and
- a text file that includes links or references to the digital content that enable access of the digital content by at least one or more of: an Internet browser, email, mail, telephone, fax, and a file transfer protocol application.

102. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file configured to download the components of the digital content from a remote computer system.

103. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 102, wherein the operations further comprise:

- receiving the digital-content-accessing component from the remote computer system.

104. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 102, wherein the operations further comprise:

- generating the digital-content-accessing component from a component list.

105. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein authenticating the one or more components includes:

- generating a message digest from the digital content; and
- comparing the generated message digest with a stored message digest.

106. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein at least one component of the digital content is encrypted.

107. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein the operations further comprise:

requesting, by the license component, an electronic license certificate from the remote licensing broker computer system.

108. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 107, wherein the operations further comprise:

receiving, by the license component, the electronic license certificate from the remote licensing broker computer system; and

decrypting, by the license component, encrypted digital content.

109. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein the operations further comprise:

executing, by the license component, a purchase transaction including a purchase of a license for the digital content.

110. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein the digital content includes one or more of:

an encrypted executable file;

an encrypted data file;

a user interface library;

a purchasing request library;

a security information file; and

an electronic license certificate.

111. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein the digital content includes one or more of:

- digitally encoded executable code;
- digitally encoded source code;
- a digitally encoded video program;
- a digitally encoded audio program;
- digitally encoded music;
- a digitally encoded game;
- a digitally encoded multi-media program;
- a digitally encoded movie; and
- a digitally encoded text document.

112. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 99, wherein the operations further comprise:

- receiving, by the license component, the license certificate; and
- generating, by the license component, a useable form of the digital content from the one or more components of the digital content according to the license certificate.

113. (New) A method for supplying digital content, comprising:

- providing, from one or more server computer systems to a digital-content-accessing component of a client computer, components of the digital content including at least one incorporated license component,

- wherein the incorporated license component is configured to provide license information to a remote licensing broker and to enable licensing of the digital content on the client computer.

114. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein the incorporated license component is further configured to provide the license information as a request for an electronic licensing certificate that enables the licensing of the digital content.

115. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein the incorporated license component is further configured to provide the license information, including a purchase option, an indication of a method of payment, or both, to the remote licensing broker.

116. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file configured to download the components of the digital content from the digital content supplier.

117. (New) The method of claim 116, further comprising:
transferring the digital-content-accessing component from the one or more server computer systems to the client computer.

118. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is generated on the client computer from a component list obtained from the digital content supplier.

119. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein at least one received digital content component is encrypted.

120. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein components of the digital content includes one or more of:

- an encrypted executable file;
- an encrypted data file;
- a user interface library;
- a purchasing request library;

a security information file; and
an electronic license certificate.

121. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein the digital content includes one or more of:

digitally encoded executable code;
digitally encoded source code;
a digitally encoded video program;
a digitally encoded audio program;
digitally encoded music;
a digitally encoded game;
a digitally encoded multi-media program;
a digitally encoded movie; and
a digitally encoded text document.

122. (New) A non-transitory computer readable storage medium having an executable program stored thereon for perform operations for supplying digital content, the operations comprising:

providing, from one or more server computer systems to a digital-content-accessing component of a client computer, components of the digital content including at least one incorporated license component,

wherein the incorporated license component is configured to provide license information to a remote licensing broker computer and to enable licensing of the digital content on the client computer.

123. (New) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 122, wherein the incorporated license component is further configured to provide the license information as a request for an electronic licensing certificate that enables the licensing of the digital content.

124. (New) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 122, wherein the incorporated license component is further configured to provide the license information, including a purchase option, an indication of a method of payment, or both, to the remote licensing broker computer.

125. (New) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 122, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file configured to download the components of the digital content from server computer system.

126. (New) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 125, wherein the operations further comprise:

transferring the digital-content-accessing component from the server computer system to the client computer.

127. (New) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 125, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is generated locally on the client computer from a component list obtained from the server computer system.

128. (New) A method for acquiring secured digital content, comprising:
receiving, by a digital-content-accessing component executing on a computing device, the secured digital content from a digital content vendor;

storing, by the digital-content-accessing component executing on the computing device, at least a portion of the secured digital content in an unusable form;

transmitting, by the digital-content-accessing component executing on the computing device, a request to a licensing broker for a license certificate to the portion of the secured digital content;

receiving, by the digital-content-accessing component executing on the computing device, the license certificate in response to the request; and

in response to receipt of the license certificate, accessing the portion of the secured digital content in accordance with information contained in the received license certificate.

129. (New) The method of claim 128, further comprising:

displaying, on the computing device, a selection interface which provides a description of the digital content and which enables acquisition of the digital content from the digital content vendor.

130. (New) The method of claim 128, further comprising:

generating, by the computing device, the digital-content-acquisition component from digital content; and

downloading, by the digital-content-accessing component executing on the computing device, additional digital content from a remote computer system.

131. (New) The method of claim 128, wherein the digital content vendor is a remote digital content vendor.

132. (New) An article of manufacture including a computer readable storage medium having instructions thereon that are executable by a computing device to cause the computing device to perform operations, the operations comprising:

receiving, by a digital-content-accessing component, the secured digital content from a digital content vendor device;

storing, by the digital-content-accessing component, at least a portion of the secured digital content in an unusable form;

transmitting, by the digital-content-accessing component, a request to a licensing broker device for a license certificate to the portion of the secured digital content;

receiving, by the digital-content-accessing component, the license certificate in response to the request; and

in response to receipt of the license certificate, accessing the stored portion of the secured digital content in accordance with information contained in the license certificate.

133. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 132, wherein the operations further comprise:

displaying a selection interface which provides a description of the digital content and which enables acquisition of the digital content from the digital content vendor device.

134. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 132, wherein the operations further comprise:

generating the digital-content-acquisition component from received digital content; and

downloading, by the digital-content-accessing component, additional digital content from a remote computer system.

135. (New) A system for acquiring digital content, comprising:

a computing device having a processor configured to process instructions and to access a memory, wherein the computing device is configured to:

execute a digital-content-accessing component that is configured to:

download one or more components of the digital content;

authenticate the one or more components of the digital content; and

store the one or more components of the digital content in an unusable form in the memory, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is further configured to be invoked by a selection interface obtained from a digital content supplier system; and

execute a license component that is incorporated within a component of the digital content and that is configured to:

transmit to a remote licensing broker system a request for a license certificate to the digital content.

136. (New) The system of claim 135, wherein the selection interface is configured to:

be instantiated on the computing device,
provide a description of the digital content; and to
receive the digital content from a remote digital content vendor system.

137. (New) The system of claim 135, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file configured to download the components of the digital content from remote computer systems.

138. (New) The system of claim 137, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is generated locally on the computing device from a component list.

139. (New) The system of claim 135, wherein the digital-content-accessing component is further configured to:

authenticate a received digital content component by generating a message digest from the received digital content component and comparing the generated message digest with a stored message digest.

140. (New) The system of claim 135, wherein the license component is further configured to:

request an electronic license certificate from the remote licensing broker system.

141. (New) The system of claim 140, wherein the license component is further configured to:

receive an electronic license certificate from the licensing broker system;
and to
decrypt encrypted digital content components.

142. (New) The system of claim 135, wherein the license component is further configured to:

execute a purchase transaction including a purchase of a license for the digital content.

143. (New) The system of claim 135, wherein the license component is further configured to:

receive the requested license certificate; and to
generate a useable form of the digital content from the one or more components of the digital content according to the license certificate.